PATENT

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 9 as follows:

A1

1.   (Amended) A method of controlling reproduction of software by an end-user of the software, the method comprising:

providing to an entity that licenses its software to users, license generation software, which when operated generates validation numbers, there being a unique validation number for each copy of the software to be separately licensed;

a copy of the validation number being provided each of a license registration database and included with the software when supplied from the entity;

when the user installs a software on a designated system, determining a registration key formed from the unique validation number and additional information including a number related to the designated system, wherein software determines the number related to the designated system;

generating a license key number using the license registration database in response to the additional information provided, wherein the license key is generated in response to an on-line transaction; and

using the license key number on the users system to unlock use of the software.

A2

7.   A method as in claim 1 wherein the additional information includes a password created by the user.

A3

9.   (Amended) A method as in claim 8 wherein the validation number further includes a unique number not controlled by a vendor.

A4

10.   (New) A method of controlling reproduction of software by an end-user of the software, the method comprising:

providing to an entity that licenses its software to users, license generation software, which when operated generates validation numbers, there being a unique validation number for each copy of the software to be separately licensed;

Steven L.Schoch et al.   <u>PATENT</u>
Application No.: 09/475,959
Page 3

a copy of the validation number being provided each of a license
registration database and included with the software when supplied from the entity;

when the user installs a software on a designated system,
determining a registration key formed from the unique validation number and a user
password created by the user;

verifying the registration key after transmitting the registration key
to the license registration database;

generating a license key number using the license registration
database; and

using the license key number on the users system to unlock use of
the software.